



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Powerhouse community advocate and academic Dr Nora Amath appointed to lead the Islamophobia Register Australia until June 2025**

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The non-profit that is leading the tracking and tackling of Islamophobia across Australia, is delighted to announce that Dr Nora Amath will be the next Executive Director until June 2025. Dr Amath will be filling in for Sharara Attai until Sharara's return to the role from a period of parental leave.

Dr Amath currently sits on the Register's Board of Directors and will be stepping down from the Board in order to undertake this position.

Dr Amath, who has a strong history of community work and academia, said she is thrilled to be leading Islamophobia Register Australia (the Register).

"Joining the Islamophobia Register executive team is a profound honour for me. I am motivated by the belief that everyone deserves to live free from fear and prejudice, regardless of their religion or background. I am committed to leveraging my expertise, passion, and leadership abilities to advance the vital mission of the Islamophobia Register Australia and contribute to creating a more equitable and inclusive society for all Australians." Dr Amath said.

Of Dr Amath's appointment, Attai said:

"I am so pleased that Dr Amath will be taking the Register reins while I'm on leave. She is an absolute powerhouse and her background and experience equip her perfectly for this role."

Dr Nora Amath was most recently working at the Islamic Women's Association of Australia as National Manager for Refugee Settlement.

She is a public intellectual, passionate about aligning community engagement and academic pursuits. Her academic research focuses on multiculturalism, social inclusion, diversity, leadership and community development. She is a published author and an adjunct Research Fellow at Griffith University. She is also a co-founder of Sakina DV Refuge. From 2020-2024, Nora chaired Islamic Relief Australia, the first woman to lead this humanitarian aid organisation.

Nora was a member of the Minister's Queensland Multicultural Advisory Council and the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Prevention Roundtable. Most recently she has been appointed to the Australian Multicultural Advisory Council.

In recognition of her contribution to Australia, in 2017, she was a finalist for Australian of the Year.



“Overall, my vision for expanding the reach and impact of the Islamophobia Register is rooted in collaboration, innovation, and advocacy. By working together with diverse stakeholders, harnessing the power of digital platforms, and advocating for systemic change, we can make meaningful strides towards combating Islamophobia and promoting social cohesion in Australia.” Dr Amath said.

The Register was founded in 2014 by **Mariam Veiszadeh** in response to the growing anecdotal evidence suggesting a rise in incidents of Islamophobia. Ms Veiszadeh said:

“We are delighted to welcome the talented Dr Nora Amath to continue building on the incredible work of our inaugural Executive Director Sharara Attai who will be commencing a period of maternity leave. Sharara has done an exceptional job as inaugural Executive Director, laying an impressive framework on which Nora can continue to build upon. Nora brings a wealth of experience to the role and her track record in community development as well as her list of accolades speaks volumes about her capabilities. We are honoured to have her steer the ship as the Register continues to grow from strength to strength.”

Veiszadeh continues to act as Founding Chair of the Register.

-ENDS-

### **About the Islamophobia Register Australia**

The Register is a not-for-profit organisation that has been leading the tracking and tackling of Islamophobia across Australia since its launch in 2014. It provides a secure and reliable online reporting platform that captures nation-wide data and offers first-hand support to victims of Islamophobia. The Register has published four academic reports on Islamophobia in Australia and more recently a media report examining post October 7 2023 media coverage of Israel-Gaza. In addition to its reporting platform, victim support services and academic research, the Register also provides education and training on Islamophobia and engages in policy and law reform. Having expanded its board and appointed an inaugural Executive Director in December 2022, the Register has since grown its operations to take its work and influence to the next level.

Its operating model has been commended and replicated by multiple other marginalised groups who have approached the Register to support them in the establishment of their own reporting models. This includes the First Nations Racism Register, ‘Call it Out’ founded by the National Justice Project and the Jumbunna Institute. The Register was also invited to provide evidence at the Disability Royal Commission who are looking to make formal recommendations to create a similar organisation to track and tackle disability hate.

### **Media Enquiries**

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